

Message Text

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OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01 OIC-02 ACDA-05 DODE-00 PM-04

L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /113 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3222

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 15899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETEL ITU GW WB US UK FR

SUBJECT: OCTOBER ITU REGIONAL CONFERENCE: BERLIN

ASPECTS -- NEGOTIATING BRIEF

REF: 15897

BEGIN SUMMARY. REFTEL REPORTS BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS
OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN AND NEGOTIATING BRIEF PREPARED
FOR THE OCTOBER ITU REGIONAL CONFERENCE. AS NOTED IN
REFTEL, THE BONN GROUP HAS GIVEN AD REF AGREEMENT TO THE
TEXT OF THE NEGOTIATING BRIEF WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA ONE
OF THIS MESSAGE EXCEPT ON TWO POINTS: (A) THE RELATIVE
PRIORITIES OF WEST BERLIN FREQUENCIES (THE US POSITION
IS CONTAINED IN PART I.L.D AND E OF THE TEXT IN PARA
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ONE, BELOW, WHILE THE FRG POSITION ON PRIORITIES IS
CONTAINED IN PARA 2, BELOW); AND (B) THE ACTION TO BE

TAKEN BY THE FRG AND BRITISH DELEGATIONS IF THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE DO NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECT WEST BERLIN BROADCASTING INTERESTS (TREATED IN PART IV OF THE TEXT IN PARA 1). END SUMMARY.

1. TEXT OF THE DRAFT NEGOTIATING BRIEF FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT ITU CONFERENCE
 NEGOTIATING BRIEF

I. THE PROBLEM

A. THE ITU REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LONG AND MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTING WILL MEET IN GENEVA FROM OCTOBER 6 TO NOVEMBER 22. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO PREPARE NEW ASSIGNMENT PLANS FOR LONG AND MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTING IN ALL AREAS OF THE WORLD EXCEPT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. SOME (BLANK) COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND.

B. PREPARATORY TO THE CONFERENCE, REGIONS I AND III MEMBER STATES NOTIFIED SOME (BLANK) FREQUENCIES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD (IFRB) FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT BY THE CONFERENCE. THIS NUMBER COMPARES TO (BLANK) WHICH ARE NOW OPERATIONAL. THUS, NOT EVEN ACCOUNTING FOR POWER AND PROPAGATION DIFFERENCES IT IS APPARENT THAT NOT ALL NOTIFIED FREQUENCIES WILL BE AGREED BY THE CONFERENCE.

C. WITH RESPECT TO BERLIN, SEVEN MEDIUM WAVE FREQUENCIES HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE ALLIES FOR BROADCASTING AND ARE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION (NO LONG WAVE FREQUENCIES ARE IN USE IN THE WSB). ALL SEVEN WERE NOTIFIED BY THE FRG TO THE IFRB IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 1974 PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AS FREQUENCIES WHICH THE ALLIES AND FRG WISHED TO MAINTAIN (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SFB 1484, ALL WERE NOTIFIED WITHIN ONE KHZ OF THE PRESENT FREQUENCY; THE 1484 WAS NOTIFIED WITH 1449 AS THE DESIRED KHZ).

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D. IT HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE ALLIES AND THE FRG THAT THE FRG WILL REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE WSB AT THE ITU CONFERENCE. THE FRG HAS ACCORDINGLY NOTIFIED THE SEVEN FREQUENCIES TO THE IFRB. THE TWO SFB FREQUENCIES AND THE BBC FREQUENCY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED AS BEING UNDER FRG "ADMINISTRATION," WHILE THE ONE AFN AND THREE RIAS FREQUENCIES ARE NOTIFIED AS UNDER USA "ADMINISTRATION."

E. THE TWO FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS POSED BY THE
CONFERENCE TO THE ALLIES AND FRG ARE:

(L) IN VIEW OF NOTIFICATION TO THE IFRB BY
OTHER STATES REQUESTING FREQUENCIES ALREADY HELD (IN SIX
OF THE SEVEN CASES) OR REQUESTED BY THE FOUR, HOW TO
PROTECT THEIR BROADCASTING INTERESTS IN BERLIN; AND

(2) HOW TO REBUFF ANY CHALLENGES REGARDING
REPRESENTATION BY THE FRG OF THE FREQUENCIES NOTIFIED

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FOR WEST BERLIN.

THIS BRIEF WILL DEAL ONLY WITH THE FIRST QUESTION.

A SEPARATE CONTINGENCY PAPER COVERING POINT (2) HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE FOUR.

II. AMERICAN, BRITISH, FRENCH AND FEDERAL GERMAN BROADCASTING INTERESTS IN WEST BERLIN

A. THE POLITICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTERESTS OF THE FOUR IN BERLIN BROADCASTING ARE WELL KNOWN AND DO NOT REQUIRE RESTATING HERE.

B. THE SEVEN FREQUENCIES NOTIFIED FOR WEST BERLIN ARE:
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	(PRESENT)	(REQUESTED)
SFB	566 KHZ	567
RIAS	683	684
BBC	809	810
RIAS	854	855
AFN	935	936
RIAS	989	990
SFB	1484	1449

C. A STUDY BY THE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD (IFRB) OF ALL FREQUENCIES NOTIFIED FOR THE CONFERENCE INDICATES THAT FIVE OF THESE SEVEN "REQUESTED" FREQUENCIES WILL NOT BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED EVEN IF ALL THE REQUESTED FREQUENCIES OF ALL ITU REGIONS I AND III MEMBERS ARE AGREED BY THE CONFERENCE AND GO INTO OPERATION. THUS, FIVE OF THE SEVEN FREQUENCIES SHOULD NOT, IN THEMSELVES, BE AT ISSUE AT GENEVA THOUGH THEY MAY, OF COURSE, BECOME INVOLVED IN TRADE-OFFS. HOWEVER, OTHER STATES HAVE REQUESTED BROADCASTING RIGHTS ON THE OTHER TWO FREQUENCIES LONG USED BY THE WSB, RIAS 990 AND SFB 567.

D. THE THREE ALLIES AND THE FRG ARE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES IN THE ORDER GIVEN:

(1) THE OPTIMUM OUTCOME IS AGREEMENT BY THE CONFERENCE FOR CONTINUED USE BY THE WSB OF ALL SEVEN FREQUENCIES AS REQUESTED (I.E., AS "NOTIFIED").

(2) THE NEXT-BEST OUTCOME IS TO OBTAIN SEVEN FREQUENCIES WHICH WOULD ENABLE ALL STATIONS TO CONTINUE BROADCASTING WITHOUT DIMINUTION IN EFFECTIVENESS OF SIGNAL (I.E., RECEIVE FREQUENCIES OTHER THAN THOSE NOTIFIED, BUT WHICH WOULD HAVE COMPARABLE COVERAGE).

(3) IF (1) OR (2) PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, THE

PRIORITIES OF THE SEVEN FREQUENCIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST PRIORITY RIAS 990

BBC 810

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SECOND PRIORITY SFB 567

THIRD PRIORITY AFN 936

FOURTH PRIORITY RIAS 684

FIFTH PRIORITY RIAS 855

SIXTH PRIORITY SFB 1449

E. RIAS 990, BBC 810 AND SFB 567 ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE (SUBJECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTING DIFFERENT BUT EQUALLY EFFECTIVE FREQUENCIES) WHILE THE OTHERS -- IN THE REVERSE OF THE ORDER LISTED -- MAY BE USED AS BARGAINING CHIPS TO PROTECT HIGHER PRIORITIES ON THE LIST.

F. TECHNICAL JUDGMENTS AS TO THE COMPARABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FREQUENCIES (SHOULD MOVING FROM REQUESTED FREQUENCIES BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY) WILL BE MADE IN CONSULTATION AMONG THE ALLIES AND THE FRG DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE.

III. INTERESTS OF OTHER ITU REGIONS I AND III MEMBERS

A. AS NOTED ABOVE, OF THE SEVEN BERLIN FREQUENCIES NOTIFIED TO THE CONFERENCE, ONLY TWO (RIAS 990 AND SFB 567) WOULD SUFFER MATERIAL INTERFERENCE IF ALL FREQUENCIES NOTIFIED BY ALL REGIONS I AND III MEMBERS WERE TO BE AGREED AND GO INTO OPERATION.

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B. THE PRINCIPAL INTERFERENCE TO RIAS 990 WOULD BE CAUSED BY OPERATION IN THE GDR OF A THREE STATION NETWORK (HOYERSWERDA, ROSTOCK, AND WACHENBRUNN) WHICH THE GDR HAS NOTIFIED FOR THE CONFERENCE TO BROADCAST ON 990 KHZ AT 20 KILOWATTS. THE PRINCIPAL INTERFERENCE TO SFB 567 WOULD ALSO COME FROM THE GDR, WHICH PROPOSES TO TRANSFER A TRANSMITTER FROM LEIPZIG TO BERLIN AND TO BROADCAST ON A NEW FREQUENCY ADJACENT TO SFB 567 USING A DIRECTIONAL BEAM. AS IN THE CASE OF RIAS, THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN SFB'S COVERAGE. THE SITES DESIGNATED FOR THE FOUR TRANSMITTERS WERE APPARENTLY CHOSEN TO PRODUCE MAXIMUM INTERFERENCE WITH RIAS 990 AND SFB 567 RECEPTION. IT THUS APPEARS THAT, WHILE GDR MOTIVES IN NOTIFYING THOSE FREQUENCIES ARE NOT CLEAR, THEY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL
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TAKEN THIS STEP FOR POLITICAL AND NOT TECHNICAL REASONS.

IV. RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

A. THE OCTOBER CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CONVENTION OF THE ITU. THE FINAL ACTS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BIND THOSE MEMBERS WHICH SIGN THEM. CONSIDERING THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTERFERENCE AMONG THE FREQUENCIES REGISTERED AND THE DIFFICULT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO ALLEVIATE INTERFERENCE, IT IS LIKELY THAT MANY COUNTRIES WILL SIGN THE FINAL ACTS WITH RESERVATIONS OR NOT SIGN THEM AT ALL.

B. IF RIAS 990, BBC 810 AND SFB 567 ARE NOT AGREED
BY THE CONFERENCE FOR CONTINUED USE IN BERLIN, OR IF
ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATE FREQUENCIES ARE NOT
PROVIDED, IT IS AGREED THAT FRANCE, THE UK, AND THE
FRG WILL, IF THEY SIGN THE FINAL ACTS, DO SO WITH
RESERVATIONS REGARDING THAT PORTION OF THE FINAL ACTS
REGARDING THESE FREQUENCIES. END TEXT

2. THE FRG HAS PROPOSED THAT PART II.D AND E OF THE
ABOVE DRAFT BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

D.(3) IF (1) OR (2) PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, THE PRIORITIES
OF THE SEVEN FREQUENCIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST PRIORITY RIAS 990
 BBC 810
 SFB 567

E. THESE THREE FREQUENCIES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE (SUBJECT
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTING DIFFERENT BUT EQUALLY
EFFECTIVE FREQUENCIES) WHILE THE OTHER FOUR MAY BE USED
AS BARGAINING CHIPS TO PROTECT THEM. END TEXT.

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